

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                    |                            |                  |                |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Applicants:</b> | Kazunori Taniguchi, et al. | <b>Examiner:</b> | Vy Q. Bui      |
| <b>Serial No:</b>  | 10/784,634                 | <b>Art Unit:</b> | 3773           |
| <b>Filed:</b>      | February 23, 2004          | <b>Docket:</b>   | 17469          |
| <b>For:</b>        | SURGICAL INSTRUMENT        | <b>Dated:</b>    | August 5, 2008 |
| <b>Conf. No.:</b>  | 2589                       |                  |                |

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R §1.111**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 8, 2008, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered into the above-captioned application.

Applicants request a one-month extension of time along with the response.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

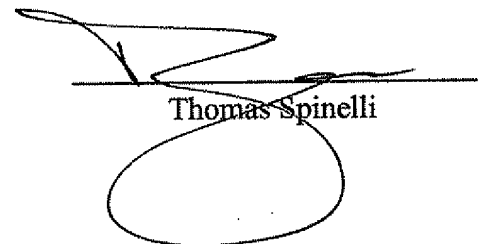
Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

---

**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent & Trademark Office via Electronic Filing through the United States Patent and Trademark Office e-business website, on the date set forth below.

Dated: August 5, 2008

  
Thomas Spinelli